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EXAMINER

HECKERT, JASON MARK

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments filed 4/17/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Examiner maintains the argument that the structures incorporated into the instant application were known at the time of invention. Applicant attempts to differentiate the "guard" or "cup" design of the instant application from the prior art. However, '294 clearly shows a stacked design akin to the instant application, but deficient in that it does not have an obliquely downwardly projected part. However, Okuda shows a cup design that incorporates the claimed shape, but not in a stacked format. One of ordinary skill in the art would be capable of incorporating the cup shape of Okuda in the stacked, multi-stage design of '294 along with the features of Sumnitsch, which are conventional in the art.